

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A computerized method of providing billing information, comprising:
receiving, over a communications network, a request for summary billing information,
the request being automatically generated by a billing portal in response to an
action by a billable entity associated with the billing portal;
requesting, over the communications network and in response to said receiving the
request for the summary billing information, the summary billing information
from a supplier of the summary billing information;
receiving, over the communications network, the summary billing information and
detailed billing contact information the supplier of the summary billing
information, the detailed billing contact information specifying contact data for
detailed billing information; and
transmitting, over the communications network to the billing portal, the summary billing
information and the detailed billing contact information, the detailed billing
contact information to be usable by the billable entity to access the detailed billing
information from a supplier of the detailed billing information.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
prior to said receiving the request for the summary billing information, providing
software to the billing portal;
wherein on the billing portal the software, in response to the action by the billable entity
associated with the billing portal, exclusively causes the billing portal to transmit
the request for the summary billing information and to receive the summary
billing information and the detailed billing contact information.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said providing the software
comprises:
transmitting, over the communications network, the software to the billing portal to effect
delivery and installation of the software.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the delivery, the installation, and
operation of the provided software are automatic with respect to other human and
machine activity at the billing portal.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the software comprises one
contiguous portion of dynamic HTML.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the software comprises one
contiguous portion of JavaScript.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the software when in an
uncompressed form has less than 80 bytes of information.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the detailed billing contact information comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that directs access to the detailed billing information located on the Internet.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the detailed billing contact information comprises an encrypted Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that authenticates an identity of one accessing information addressable by the Uniform Resource Locator.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
prior to said requesting the summary billing information, providing software to the
supplier of the summary billing information;
wherein on the supplier the software, in response to said requesting the summary billing
information, causes the supplier to transmit the summary billing information over
the communications network.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein
the summary billing information is received from the supplier of the summary billing
information in a first one of a plurality of different data formats; and the method
further comprises:
translating the summary billing information from the first one of a plurality of different
data formats into a predetermined data format.

12-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium storing instructions which when executed perform a method of providing billing information, the method comprising:
receiving, over a communications network, a request for summary billing information,
the request being automatically generated by a billing portal in response to an
action by a billable entity associated with the billing portal;
requesting, over the communications network and in response to said receiving the
request for the summary billing information, the summary billing information
from a supplier of the summary billing information;
receiving, over the communications network, the summary billing information and
detailed billing contact information from the supplier of the summary billing
information, the detailed billing contact information specifying contact data for
detailed billing information; and
transmitting, over the communications network to the billing portal, the summary billing
information and the detailed billing contact information, the detailed billing
contact information to be usable by the billable entity to access the detailed billing
information from a supplier of the detailed billing information.
26. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 25, wherein the method further comprises:
prior to said receiving the request for the summary billing information, providing
software to the billing portal;
wherein on the billing portal the software, in response to the action by the billable entity
associated with the billing portal, exclusively causes the billing portal to transmit
the request for the summary billing information and to receive the summary
billing information and the detailed billing contact information.

27. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 25, wherein the detailed billing contact information comprises at least one of:
- a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that directs access to the detailed billing information located on the Internet; and
 - an encrypted Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that authenticates an identity of one accessing information addressable by the Uniform Resource Locator.
28. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 25, wherein the method further comprises: prior to said requesting the summary billing information, providing software to the supplier of the summary billing information;
- wherein on the supplier the software, in response to said requesting the summary billing information, causes the supplier to transmit the summary billing information over the communications network.
29. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 25, wherein the summary billing information is received from the supplier of the summary billing information in a first one of a plurality of different data formats; and the method further comprises: translating the summary billing information from the first one of a plurality of different data formats into a predetermined data format.

30. (Currently Amended) A data processing system, comprising:
- means for receiving, over a communications network, a request for summary billing information, the request being automatically generated by a billing portal in response to an action by a billable entity associated with the billing portal;
 - means for requesting, over the communications network and in response to receiving the request for the summary billing information, the summary billing information from a supplier of the summary billing information;
 - means for receiving, over the communications network, the summary billing information and detailed billing contact information from the supplier of the summary billing information, the detailed billing contact information specifying contact data for detailed billing information; and
 - means for transmitting, over the communications network to the billing portal, the summary billing information and the detailed billing contact information, the detailed billing contact information to be usable by the billable entity to access the detailed billing information from a supplier of the detailed billing information.

31. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 30, further comprising:
means for, prior to receiving the request for the summary billing information, providing
first software to the billing portal; and
means for, prior to requesting the summary billing information, providing second
software to the supplier of the summary billing information;
wherein on the billing portal the first software, in response to the action by the billable
entity associated with the billing portal, exclusively causes the billing portal to
transmit the request for the summary billing information and to receive the
summary billing information and the detailed billing contact information; and
wherein on the supplier the second software, in response to said means for requesting the
summary billing information, causes the supplier to transmit the summary billing
information over the communications network.
32. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 30, wherein the detailed
billing contact information comprises at least one of:
a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that directs access to the detailed billing information
located on the Internet; and
an encrypted Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that authenticates an identity of one
accessing information addressable by the Uniform Resource Locator.
33. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 30, wherein the summary
billing information is received from the supplier of the summary billing information in a
first one of a plurality of different data formats; and the system further comprises:
means for translating the summary billing information from the first one of a plurality of
different data formats into a predetermined data format.